

Good morning Representative Horn, Senator Osten and distinguished members of the Public Safety Committee. I wanted to take this opportunity to express my SUPPORT for raised bill SB 132 "AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE AND USE OF CONSUMER GRADE FIREWORKS".

Bill SB 132 has many safety items and requirements placed into it. It has the highest age for purchase of consumer fireworks in the United States as well as required, thorough inspections by safety officials. This is a well written bill with stiff penalties for fireworks violations, limitations on use, a tax component, as well as clear regulations.

More importantly I feel SB 132 continues to prohibit noisy firecrackers, bottle rockets, sky lanterns and the largest types of consumer fireworks. This means that Connecticut will continue to be more restrictive in what consumer fireworks can be sold than other nearby states. The repeater types of fireworks this bill does allow are a type where people light the fuse and walk away. The handling of the fireworks is minimal by the consumer. These types of fireworks will allow families to do small celebratory backyard shows away from crowds. All consumer fireworks sold in stores in the United States are tested for safety by the Consumer Products Safety Commission.

SB 132 is significantly different than other raised consumer fireworks bills reviewed by the Connecticut General Assembly in the past. This bill strikes a good balance between being very restrictive for safety while still allowing backyard celebrations and for commerce activity.

In closing I would like to thank the Public Safety Committee for giving me this opportunity to provide a public statement in support of bill SB 132, "AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE AND USE OF CONSUMER GRADE FIREWORKS". I strongly SUPPORT allowing consumer fireworks to be sold and used in Connecticut and updating the current outdated fireworks laws.

Sincerely,
Steven Gelineau